(c) The proposals are examined with reference to their technical feasibility, economic viability and other parameters and those proposals meeting the criteria are provided financial assistance.

Promoting FPIs in villages

†1393. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to formulate any special scheme to promote food processing industries in order to raise living standards of villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry is operating six Plan Schemes during the Tenth Plan period with a total approved outlay of Rs. 650 crores for the development of food processing industries.

It is expected that development of this sector would result in reduction of wastages, increase in processing level, assured remuneration to growers and better access to market etc. These will contribute to raising the living standards of farmers.

(c) Does not arise.

Banana based drink

1394. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3788 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of developing the technology for production of banana based carbonated drink including the month and year of this break-through; and

(b) the steps taken to promote commercial production of this soft drink?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.